



Terra Linda PTC Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2012

Attendees 17 (including board)

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and minutes were approved from the March meeting.

2011-2012 PTC board:

President	Kim Wier	kim@wierhere.net
VP of Fundraising	Karley Nees	kwnes@comcast.net
Secretary	Lisa Martinsen	martnsn@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Michele Greenwood	greenwood.pdx@gmail.com
Volunteer Coordinators	Amy Calahan	a.calahan@comcast.net
	Danae Lowman	Danae.lowman@gmail.com

**Fundraising
(Karley)**

- Dining for Dollars
 - Pizzicato on 4/16 – We get 20% of sales for the day, including gift cards. You can order ahead, pick up a partially baked pizza for later, and they offer gluten free.
 - McMenamins Oak Hills on May 15th

**Treasurer's
report
(Michele)**

- Income:
 - Write-a-check brought in \$2400 from Nike which went directly to the school fund, not to the PTC, so we can keep track.
 - \$320 from Intel
 - \$3200 from the carnival
 - \$25 – logo sales
 - \$285 from Subway
- Out:
 - Classroom enrichment – budget bumped for Kindergarten enrichment request approved at the last meeting
 - Zoo animals at the Science Fair will be paid out of arts and science enrichment funds
 - ESL – spent \$40 on snacks

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Terra Linda PTC Meeting Minutes, Continued

Treasurer's report (Michele)

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- Question: If budgeted money isn't spent this year, with Math Lab in particular, will it be carried over to next year? Answer: A new budget is created every year. Math Lab expenses may be down this year so far because copying was all outside last year and some of it has been done inside this year. There is a need, at least from a 3rd grade Math Lab perspective, that more materials are needed and existing tools could be beefed up. It sounds like a good idea for the Math lab reps, Mr Engel and Michele to have a conversation regarding the budget for next year.
 - Surplus request for Art Blast of \$500. Currently budgeted for zero as there wasn't an Art Blast last year. Art Blast is incorporating art lit into the art blast this year and self directed art submission based on the principals of Art Lit. Each child has two pieces of art as part of Art Blast. There will be some sort of snack offered and a silent auction to raise funds for teachers. Parents can recreate some of the art at the Art Blast. Art Blast will be on 5/11, 6-8 pm. There are lots of volunteer opportunities. The surplus request was voted on and approved.
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Volunteer & Events Update (Danae & Amy)

- There are several open committee positions for next year.
 - Boo Bash – Could help to define what it is as it has changed every few years. The past couple of years it has been a dance, since the kids typically wear a costume, which makes it harder at a carnival.
 - Dinners Out – Needs a coordinator, but Karley will work with the volunteer to get them going
 - President for the PTC
 - Plant Sale coordinator: end of the year
 - Staff appreciation – Help organize the volunteers, could team up
 - Party chair(s) (see Classroom Party notes for more info.)
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Technology Committee Update (Jack Lampka)

- BSD has a technology plan developed in 2011. Much of what is included in the plan cannot be done due to budget.
 - The technology committee was formed because the PTC has some money available. The committee met with Mr Engel, Melanee Lucas and teachers to understand needs. From that the following needs were uncovered:
 - We need better PCs in the computer lab.
 - The three teachers who have the technology grant really utilize the technology; it would be great to have some mobile devices that will support that environment.
 - There is a need for technology volunteers to:
 - Help teachers set-up before a lesson
 - Help clean up – charge, clean equipment, reset
 - Help teachers and students to understand how to use the technology
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Terra Linda PTC Meeting Minutes, Continued

Technology Committee Update

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- There is an opportunity to have free newer computers to upgrade the lab (donated from Nike). That means the PTC can focus our efforts on mobile devices (iPads, iPods etc).
- The BSD is developing a grant for teachers, offered district wide, which would help fund mobile devices. The grant will be available to all teachers in BSD, but not all teachers will get it. The grant would include training.
- The committee recommends replicating the BSD grant for Terra Linda. The process would be similar to BSD, but available to Terra Linda teachers only. The district would let us piggyback on the training to use the mobile devices.
- Next steps: What the grant structure will be, close on the needs of the 7 teachers who need upgrades, perhaps they could get laptops? Find a way to utilize technology volunteers which could help setup the donated computers for the lab.
- If we buy equipment, it would be bought through the district to get district discounts and follow BSD guidelines, etc.
- Question: How do they use the mobile devices? Melanee Lucas answered that they use it for dictionary, thesaurus, research, so they have what they need at their fingertips. The iPad can be used by individuals to do math programs and it will project at the front of the class.
- One concern expressed by a parent about the technology curriculum, One concern is the training of the teachers, this parent has been in the classroom and seen games and advertisements, There are also YouTube concerns and suitability of content. Not sure of the academic aspect. What is the academic oversight and the accountability for the teachers to make sure the kids don't get distracted while learning how to use the technology.
- Mr Engel: In terms of technology, those are valid questions and we want to make sure it's being used in a way that will have the most benefits for kids. Technology is changing so rapidly and there are a lot of great sites (Google Earth), but there is some danger of misuse which turns into a management issue. Those are beyond this scope, but technology brings value to the classroom. Part of the technology support facet could have volunteers in the classroom to help monitor use in the classroom.
- Three classes at Terra Linda have the technology grant and four in other schools and when the district measured performance, they saw an increase.
- Part of the grant would be to track the performance to make sure there are improvements. Rubrics will be in place and included in the training. Student learning is growing exponentially with the use of technology.

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Technology Committee Update

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- Parent comment: You Tube does have a lot of worthless sites, but also valuable tutorials. There are safety filters in place that keeps much of the inappropriate content out.
 - For the next PTC meeting the technology committee should have a recommendation as to what we can do.
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Classroom Parties

- There has been some talk about needing a more consistent policy around classroom parties for next year. There has been some concern about nutrition.
 - Liz Maguire shared the BSD nutrition policy. TL has gotten away from some of the policies. Nutrition guidelines apply to snacks, parties, and groups that use the school to meet after school or any activity where children make up the majority of attendees at an event. Schools should not use food as rewards for academic behavior. Celebrations should consist of no more than one party per class per term and no more than one food that doesn't meet the nutrition guide. The school seems to have gotten away from following guidelines.
 - Melanee Lucas shared that last year the school had a meeting with a rep from nutrition services and talked about parties with the staff. An example of what falls under the guidelines is that we could have cookies as the one item that is off the nutrition list, but could not have both punch and cookies. This wasn't communicated well to parents and there could be better communication between staff and parents. We don't want to create an awkward situation for teachers.
 - Other schools use a Party in a Box concept with success – A committee of three meets and plans out activities and snacks for every grade level. They provide the list of party ideas that the classroom parent can then use to help plan their party. Parents are prohibited from adding any personal money into the party fund. The Party in a Box keeps all the games and activities age appropriate and materials can be reused. This also addresses disparate snacks between classes.
 - Part of the education has to be the parent volunteer, which is why we are having this conversation. Nutritious food is often more expensive. Emphasis should be on social aspect, not on food or treats.
 - An email was read from a party parent in first grade which suggested eliminating parties other than the end of year.
 - Do we need a classroom party at Halloween because we have the Boo Bash? Could we have the carnival around Valentine's Day?
 - Eliminating parties considered in light of fewer school days. What about a service project around a holiday instead?
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Classroom Parties

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- What about having a seasonal party instead? That's what they do in middle school, they get to go the gym and there is no food involved.
- We would love to have 1-3 people to take it on as coordinators and figure out what they want to do and create the plan.
- Mr. Engel said this has been an interesting conversation for him. As a school a discussion probably needs to be held around how food is being used in the school and how often.
- The PTC used to buy the snacks for all the classes, each class came and got it. That practice was discontinued as there seemed to be a lot of waste.
- Include the teacher in the conversation, there are a lot of kids that don't go to outside parties and this is a learning activity for them. An enrichment activity providing social interaction.
- There is strong support to change the way we do parties. We want to have a committee that will talk to staff and come back with a few options for guidelines/recommendations to the next PTC meeting.
- While this discussion wasn't focused on the fifth grade end of year party it was proposed that the service project idea could be something to consider next year in lieu of the fifth grade end of year party

Principal's Update (John Engel)

- Next week on 4/19, the budget is being presented to the school board as an informational meeting at Sunset High School. The Tiger Tale on 4/12 will include details.
- Wednesday is the volunteer appreciation event at from 8:15 – 9:15 in the library. All volunteers are invited to attend.

Open Discussion

- No items
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Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next PTC meeting on May 9, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the school library